



HB 859 HD1

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HEALTH.
Report Title:	Department of Health; Website; Care-Home Vacancy; Working Group (\$)
Description:	Authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to maintain a forum on its website where specified state-licensed care facilities may post vacancy information. Requires DOH to convene a working group to discuss and provide feedback on the implementation and maintenance of the forum. Appropriates funds. (HB859 HD1)
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HSH/HTH, WAM
Introducer(s):	MIZUNO, AQUINO, BROWER, CACHOLA, CREAGAN, EVANS, JOHANSON, MORIKAWA, NISHIMOTO, Belatti, San Buenaventura



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony with COMMENTS of House Bill 859, HD 1
RELATING TO HEALTH**

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The department respectfully defers to the Governor's Executive Budget
2 request for the Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities.

3 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 859 HD 1.

4 This bill will authorize the department to create and maintain a forum on its website
5 where vacancy information of specified state-licensed care facilities may post vacancy
6 information to facilitate the placement of individuals. The department supports the intent of a
7 forum. However, information on the availability of vacant beds is best left up to the industry to
8 disseminate rather than by the department. A forum could be viewed as a form of advertising to
9 attract paying clients to specific homes. The department should not be directly involved in
10 advertising on behalf of state-licensed facilities.

11 The forum would likely take the form of a blog where facilities would post their vacancy
12 information. Presumably, the public would expect the information on a state website to be
13 reasonably accurate in order to be meaningful and useful. However, vacancy information is
14 dynamic and often changes rapidly and the department must rely on the timeliness and

1 completeness of information conveyed by the facilities. The department does not have the
2 resources to directly verify the existence of specific vacancies and to identify the gender and
3 wheelchair allowances of the facilities for each vacancy on a timely basis that would be useful
4 and accurate for the public. As a result, the forum page would need to contain caveats and
5 disclaimers regarding the timeliness and completeness of the information. Its usefulness would
6 quickly become questionable.

7 The department would also need to monitor the forum daily to ensure that posted
8 information is appropriate and virus-free. The department does not have the necessary resources
9 to do this. As a result, it is highly unlikely the department would establish and maintain a forum
10 for the posting of vacancies.

11 Nevertheless, if this committee or if the legislature were to agree with the department's
12 recommendation that the forum should reside with the industry instead of the department, the
13 department pledges to actively work with the industry to determine what role the state could or
14 should play in the forum. As a result, a Working Group would not be required.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**TO: SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR OF HEALTH & VICE CHAIR OF HUMAN SERVICES/HOUSING
SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR OF HUMAN SERVICES/HOUSING
SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR OF HEALTH**

DATE: MARCH 25, 2015, WEDNESDAY

TIME: 1:15 PM

PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 414

TESTIFIER: WANNETTE GAYLORD

BILL: HB 859 HD1

POSITION: IN STRONG SUPPORT

**GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIRS GREEN & CHUN OAKLAND & VICE CHAIR WAKAI
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.**

**MY NAME IS WANNETTE GAYLORD AND I AM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF ARCA,
ALLIANCE OF RESIDENTIALCARE ADMINISTRATORS.**

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB859 HD1.

**OUR ORGANIZATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH'S INSPECTIONS WEBSITE INCLUDE A VACANCY REPORT IN WHICH
WOULD ASSIST IN FACILITATING PLACEMENT OF OUR FRAGILE KUPUNA INTO
THE RIGHT HOME.**

**WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DOH WORKING GROUP CONSIST OF LEADERS FROM
PROMINENT CAREGIVER ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ARCA TO DISCUSS AND
PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE
FORUM.**

MAHALO FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF HB 859 HD1.

**Arlene Hanks CCFFH
Jonathan & Arlene Hanks
44-124 Mikiola Drive
Kaneohe Hawaii, 96744**

March 22, 2015

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**Hearing on HB 859
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and committee members. I thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Jonathan P. Hanks, My wife Arlene and I run a Community Care Family Foster Home. I am in strong support of HB 859. My wife has been a certified CCFFH operator continuously for the last 14 years. I've been caring for elderly in our home for the last nine years. I am also certified as an Adult Residential Care Home Operator. As our elderly population is increasing and the "Baby Boomer generation is beginning to need care, I feel we need as many options as possible for our elders in long-term care. This Bill, HB 859 Expands the list of state-licensed care facilities for which the Department of Health is required to post electronic inspection reports on its website. It Requires the Department to maintain a forum on its website where state-licensed care facilities may post vacancy information. This measure will make it easier for family members who are searching for the proper health care facility for their elder in need of care. The Vacancy Reporting, will help free up beds in hospitals, Nursing Facilities etc., and help fill open beds in Adult Residential Care-homes and Community Care Family Foster Homes. I am in Strong Support of this measure, HB 859. I humbly thank this Committee for this Opportunity to Speak.

Jonathan P. Hanks

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB859 on Mar 25, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:40:58 AM

HB859

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for HSH/HTH on Mar 25, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly agree to this HB859 to be pass by the committee in charge in order to have a fair referral system . Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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